ILMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of

# THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1969.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

### Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCall
V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague
M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

### Public Health Inspector

F.A. Lethbridge, M.A.P.H.I.

### Assistant Public Health Inspector

J. Hill, M.A.P.H.I.

### Clerk to Medical Officer

Miss Y. Michael, M.A.

### District Nurses

Mrs. Crouch, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Mrs. Beechey, S.R.N., S.C.M.

### Health, Highways and Buildings Committee

E.F. Britten
L.T. Clapp (Chairman)
M.E. Holtom (Vice-Chairman)
L.C. Sparks
P.G.H. Speke

### Housing Committee

All members of the Council

E.F. Britten
L.G. Carbin
L.T. Clapp (Vice-Chairman)
C.T. Cranton
A.A.C. Derrick (Chairman)
M.E. Holtom
W.C. Honeybun
I.J. Morgan
Mrs. M.T. Prew
D.G. Seaward
L.C. Sparks
P.G.H. Speke

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To the Chairman and Councillors of the Ilminster Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Report for 1969.

Although little infectious disease occurred there was a severe epidemic of influenza in December and a large number of residents were affected.

It was an active year in which every side of the Council's work developed. Additional staff was required to assist with housing supervision.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A.M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health

## SECTION A

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population The estimated mid-year population for 1969 was 2,920, a slight increase on the previous year, giving a population density of 5.4 per acre. The rateable value increased to £113,614 and the penny rate to £447.

Birth Rate The corrected Birth Rate was 16.9 per thousand, compared with the national figure of 16.3 There were five illegitimate births, which is 10% of all live births, compared with the national figure of 8%.

Death Rate The corrected Death Rate was 16.9, compared with the figure for England and Wales of 11.9. Out of a total of fifty deaths, fifteen were due to heart disease, twelve of these being coronary heart disease. There were thirteen deaths from cancer, two of these were lung cancer, and eight persons died of a "stroke". Full details are shown in Appendix A, Table 3.

Maternal Mortality There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Stillbirths There were no stillbirths during 1969.

Infant Mortality There was one infant death during the year due to a cerebral haemorrhage.

Social Habits There was little change in the social patterns but the general increase in the cost of living was felt by all and hardest by the elderly and those on fixed pensions.

## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The local health services provided by the County Council continued with little change.

The numbers attending the child welfare clinic tended to be slightly lower, particularly among the older age groups, due to the use of the computor at County Hall for dealing with immunisations. Under the scheme all records of children up to the age of ten are kept at County Hall and as immunological procedures are due the parents are notified to attend at the private practitioners surgeries on a pre-arranged date. No immunisations were carried out at the child welfare clinic.

I carried out an annual inspection at the schools listed in Appendix B, Table 2.

During the school medical inspections I frequently saw overweight children. Whenever a parent accompanied the child I explained the need to learn sensible food habits. A fat child means a fat adult eventually and allowing a child to become fat is a cruel kindness. Not only is the child being condemned to a life of social isolation as a "fatty" but also is shortening its expectation of life.

The demand for play groups continued and a second one, organised by the W.R.V.S., started during the year and received good support.

## SECTION C

### Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases

The only infectious disease notified was measles. There were fifty-two cases. Vaccination against measles is available and an increasing number of parents approached private practitioners to protect their children.

During the autumn of 1968 an epidemic of influenza was expected to spread westward from Hong Kong. Vaccine manufacturers worked non-stop to produce the vaccine. The Press gave wide publicity to the threatened epidemic - and then, nothing. The outbreak simply did not happen or was so mild as to be negligible. The unfortunate consequence was to foster an attitude of unconcern about "Mao Flu". When the real epidemic struck in December, 1969 the country was largely unprepared.

During the previous winter there was considerable demand for vaccine which was rationed and used exclusively for susceptible persons. During the autumn of 1969 the demand was not repeated. The first cases occurred in early December and increased rapidly. By the end of the month influenza was widespread throughout the country. Ilminster did not escape. There were so many calls for medical treatment I agreed to the general practitioners issuing a first medical certificate without a visit but subsequent certificates were only issued after the patient had been seen.

I carried out my B.C.G. programme against tuberculosis in the spring. Children born in 1958 were those offered vaccination. I vaccinated 67 at the Secondary Modern School, 20 at the Boys' Grammar and 25 at the Girls' Grammar schools.

There was no visit of the Mass X-Ray unit to the town during the year and, following a change of policy nationally, regular visits will no longer be carried out unless there is a special necessity.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services

A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions In 1969 the weather was generally mild with no extremes of temperature. There were good sunny periods during the summer but also occasional heavy rain.

Water Supply The water supply provided by the Wessex Water Board was generally satisfactory in quality and quantity. Of the ten samples reported on by their laboratory all were satisfactory. A further four were taken by the Public Health department and they also were reported on as satisfactory by the Public Health Laboratory.

Following receipt of the Ministry memorandum requesting Councils to consider fluoridation of water supplies, the full Council did so. During the debate the Chairman made several unsubstantiated statements against fluoridation. When put to the vote the Council were equally divided, six votes each, and the Chairman gave his casting vote against.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal The drainage of the town was generally satisfactory throughout the year although a little trouble was experienced in January following a rapid thaw, and in July due to heavy rain. One of the causes was traced to the pump situated in Station Road and this was overhauled. The sewers were extended in the Springfield Estate at a cost of £3,500 and a further extension at The Mead is envisaged. The sewage works were maintained in a very satisfactory manner and I was impressed by the standard achieved. Regular sampling of the effluent is carried out each month and of the twelve samples taken all were satisfactory with the exception of the March sample which showed a slight increase in suspended solids.

Refuse Disposal The Council continued to collect refuse weekly and the Chilworthy tip was used for disposal. The use of paper bags was introduced for old people in the Butts area.

Rodent Control One part-time rodent operator continued to be employed. He carried out the usual test baiting of Council property and sewers and dealt with several private complaints. No heavy infestation occured during 1969.

Public Conveniences The conveniences at Ditton Street and West Street

were well maintained despite occasional damage caused by an unappreciative public.

Swimming Baths The Secondary Modern and Boys' Grammar Schools have swimming baths. These were maintained in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with the standards laid down by the County Council in their Manual of Operation. There were some private pools in the town which were not inspected.

Nuisances The few complaints of nuisance reported to the Public Health Department were promptly dealt with by the Inspector and a generally satisfactory result ensued.

B. Factories Act

No inspections under this Act were carried out during 1969.

C. Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act

There are 57 premises registered under this Act. Informal action was taken in several premises and Court proceedings were pending in one case.

D. Housing

The Council built twenty-three houses during the year and eight were built privately. Private builders were in the course of erecting thirty-three others at the end of the year. The main demand was for old peoples' bungalows and there were fifty-nine applicants at the end of the year and seven other applicants who were considered urgent.

The Council continued to deal sympathetically with all applications for grants, both Standard and Discretionary. There is no doubt that this legislation is improving the standard of housing in the town.

Caravans There is one licensed caravan site and it is estimated it houses approximately forty residents.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Milk sampling is carried out by the County Council staff. There are five registered distributors and one dairy premises registered in the Urban District.

Ice Cream Fifteen premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream. No sampling was carried out during 1969.

Meat The Council continued to do 100% meat inspection in the private slaughter houses and details of the inspections are given in Appendix D, Table 3.

Food Hygiene Regulations There are forty-seven premises subject to these Regulations and regular inspection was carried out. Informal action was taken in several premises to obtain compliance.

## APPENDIX A TABLE 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1969 ..... ..... | 2,920 |
| No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1969 according to the Rate Book | 1,135 |
| Rateable Value ..... ..... | £113,614 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate ..... ..... | £447 |
| Area ..... ..... | 531 acres |

## APPENDIX A TABLE 2

**BIRTH RATE** 17.1 **Comparability Factor** 0.98

| | | M | F |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Live Births** | Total | 25 | 25 |
| | Legitimate | 23 | 22 |
| | Illegitimate | 2 | 3 |
| **Stillbirths** | Total | - | - |
| | Legitimate | - | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - |
| **Deaths of Infants under 1 year** | Total | 1 | - |
| | Legitimate | 1 | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - |
| **Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks** | Total | 1 | - |
| | Legitimate | 1 | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - |
| **Deaths of Infants under 1 week** | Total | 1 | - |
| | Legitimate | 1 | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - |

## APPENDIX A TABLE 3

| | Sex | Total all Ages | Under 4 weeks | Under 1 year | 1- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65- | 75+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cancer of Stomach | M | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cancer of Intestine | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Cancer of Lung, Bronchus | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Cancer of Uterus | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Cancer of Prostate | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Cancer of Other Sites | M | 3 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Other Endocrine Diseases | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Hypertensive Disease | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease | M | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| | F | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other Forms of Heart Disease | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | M | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| | F | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | M | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc. | M | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| All Other Accidents | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL ALL CAUSES | M | 28 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 15 | 7 |
| | F | 22 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 |

## APPENDIX B TABLE 1

### Ilminster Child Welfare Clinic

1. No. of children on register who attended during 1969

| | |
|---|---|
| Born in 1969 ..... ..... | 64 |
| Born in 1968 ..... ..... | 72 |
| Born in 1964/67 ..... ..... | 135 |

2. No. of attendances in 1969 by children

| | |
|---|---|
| Born in 1969 ..... ..... | 395 |
| Born in 1968 ..... ..... | 484 |
| Born in 1964/67 ..... ..... | 403 |

3. No. of sessions ..... ..... 24

4. No. of medical consultations ..... 396

5. No. of doctor sessions ..... ..... 24

## APPENDIX B TABLE 2

| Name of School | No. on Roll | No. inspected | Date of Medical Inspection | Children having milk | Children having dinner | Date of last dental inspection |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ilminster Junior Boys' | 90 | 39 | 19.11.69 | 83.33% | 77.77% | 19.6.69 |
| Ilminster Boys' Grammar | 142 | 37 | 30.6.69 | - | 40.84% | 19.9.68 |
| Ilminster Infants' & Junior Girls' | 223 | 98 | 11/12/13. 6.69 | 87.44% | 65.02% | 3.7.68 |
| Ilminster Secondary Modern | 332 | 86 | 27/29/31. 1.69 | - | 50.33% | 9.6.69 |

APPENDIX C TABLE 1

## Infectious Diseases

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Measles | ..... | ..... | 52 |

## Analysis of Cases Notified

| | Under 1 yr. | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-55 | 55-65 | 65+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Measles | 2 | | 2 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 28 | 2 | | | | | |

## Tuberculosis

| Age Group | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| - 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 - 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 - 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 25 - 35 | | | | | | | | |
| 35 - 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 - 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 - 65 | | | | | | | | |
| 65+ | | | | | | | | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

APPENDIX D TABLE 1

**Factories Acts 1937 - 1959**

| | No. on Register | No. of inspections | No. of written Notices | No. of occupiers prosecuted |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority | 4 | - | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | 25 | - | - | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | 6 | - | - | - |
| | 35 | - | - | - |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cases in which defects were found | ..... | ..... | ..... | Nil |
| Cases in which defects were remedied | ..... | ..... | ..... | Nil |
| No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 110 | | ..... | ..... | 19 |

APPENDIX D TABLE 2

## Housing

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | No. of houses included in Clearance Area for which Orders are still to be made | ..... | Nil |
| 2. | No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957 | ..... | Nil |
| 3. | No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas) | ..... | Nil |
| 4. | Housing Act, 1957 (Section 17 - Individual Unfits) | | |
| | (i) (a) Houses demolished | ..... | 3 |
| | (b) Houses closed | ..... | 6 |
| | (ii) For other purposes, (road improvements, etc.) | ..... | Nil |
| 5. | No. of temporary dwellings (huts etc.) demolished | ..... | Nil |
| 6. | No. of houses declared unfit under | | |
| | (i) Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 | ..... | Nil |
| | (ii) Section 72 of the Housing Act, 1969 | ..... | Nil |
| 7. | No. of houses made fit during year | ..... | 4 |
| 8. | No. of unfit houses occupied under licence | ..... | Nil |
| 9. | Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Acts, 1961 to 1969) | ..... | Nil |
| 10. | Reconditioning of condemned houses - Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961) | ..... | Nil |
| 11. | Substitution of Closing Order ~~of~~ for Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken | ..... | Nil |
| 12. | Housing Act, 1969 Section 28 General Improvement Areas No. of areas so defined | ..... | Nil |

13. Housing Act, 1957 - Slum Clearance 1970 - 73

| | | | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Part III | a. Houses in areas to be declared | 7 | - | - | - |
| | | b. Houses to be cleared | - | - | - | - |
| 2. | Part II | Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders | 6 | - | - | - |

Remarks Improvement of older houses, rather than closure and demolition, is the policy

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Housing Act, 1964. Any action taken during year | ..... | Nil |
| 15. | Rent Acts, 1968 and Housing Act, 1969 | | |
| | (i) Certificates of Fair Rent Certificates issued (if known) | ..... | Nil |
| | (ii) Certificates of Disrepair | | |
| | (a) No. of applications received | ..... | Nil |
| | (b) Certificates issued | ..... | Nil |

| | Houses erected during year | | Houses in course of erection | | Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings | Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | For Slum Clearance | For Other Purposes | For Slum Clearance | For Other Purposes | | |
| **Local Authority** | Nil | 23 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| **Private Enterprise** | Nil | 8 | Nil | 35 | Nil | Nil |

Number of Post-War houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1969

| By Local Authority | By Private Enterprise |
|---|---|
| 353 | 143 |

**Future Housing Programme (if known)** (As requested by Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular No. 21/65)

**Programme forecast 70 - 71 - 72 - 73**

| | |
|---|---|
| 70/71 | 20 units |
| 71/72 | Nil |
| 72/73 | Nil |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | No. of temporary housing units occupied | (i) Prefabs ..... | Nil |
| | | (ii) Huts, etc. ..... | Nil |
| (b) | No. of houses found overcrowded | ..... | Nil |

Houses required

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) | To replace houses scheduled for demolition | ..... | Nil |
| (ii) | To abate overcrowding | ..... | Nil |
| (iii) | For other purposes | ..... | Nil |
| (iv) | Applications for Council houses at end of year | | |
| | (a) Urgent bona fide cases | ..... | 7 |
| | (b) Applications for old people's dwellings | ..... | 59 |
| | (c) Others | ..... | 89 |
| | Total applications | | 155 |

| | Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.68 (a) | GAINED a) Erected b) Conversion c) Council houses sold to P.E. during 1969 (b) A | B | C | Total (a) + (b) | LOST Less houses a) Demolished b) Closed c) Sold during 1969 d) Conversion A | B | C | D | Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.69 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **L.A.** | 386 | 23 | - | - | 23 | - | - | - | - | 409 |
| **P.E.** | 728 | 8 | - | - | 8 | 3 | 6 | - | - | 727 |
| **Totals** | 1114 | 31 | - | - | 31 | 3 | 6 | - | - | 1136 |

## OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

| Total Number erected to 31.12.69 | | Number in Course of Erection | |
|---|---|---|---|
| With County Council Aid | Without County Council Aid | With County Council Aid | Without County Council Aid |
| Nil | 43 | Nil | Nil |

## GRANTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO PRIVATE OWNERS

| | | Up to August, 1969 | | | | After August, 1969 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Received | | Approved | | Received | | Approved | |
| | | Applications | No. of Dwellings | Applications | No. of Dwellings | Applications | No. of Dwellings | Applications | No. of Dwellings |
| 1. | Improvement Grants | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. | Standard Grants | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 3. | Special Grants | - | - | - | - | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

APPENDIX D TABLE 3

## Meat Inspection

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year**

| | Cattle excluding cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No. killed (if known)** | 720 | 108 | 1969 | 5624 | 354 | - |
| **No. inspected** | 720 | 108 | 1969 | 5624 | 354 | - |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | 1 | 7 | 10 | 16 | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 165 | 49 | 17 | 358 | 26 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 23.05% | 51.85% | 1.31% | 6.65% | 7.34% | - |
| Tuberculosis only | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | 15 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | 4.24% | - |
| Cysticercosis | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for: | | | | | | |
| (a) Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | 179 | - |
| (b) Cysticercosis | 54 | - | - | - | - | - |
| (c) Other | 2023 | 3478 | 580 | 1237 | 118 | - |
| **Total (in lbs.) condemned** | 2077 | 3478 | 580 | 1237 | 297 | - |